

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)

April 11, 2014

10:00 AM

Veterans Memorial Auditorium

5825 Florida Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 10:10 AM.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

Present: Commissioner Strain, Richard Muller, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., William Stutts, Calvin Viator, Wilbert Waguespack, and Linda Zaunbrecher

Absent: Ted Gauthier and William Hawkins

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with seven members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Strain asked the Authority members to review the minutes from the December 4, 2013, meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2013, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Strain asked the Authority members to review the minutes from the January 14, 2014, meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2014, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented LAFA's Financial Statement to the board and answered the members' questions.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Mr. Simon updated the board on the status of the Lacassine Industrial Park/Porocel lease. He stated that LAFA will need to spend about \$75,000 to have the power connected at the mill.
- He informed the board that Groupo Gloria is about 60% complete with the dismantling of the mill.
- Mr. Simon notified the board LAFA received zero findings on this fiscal year's audit from the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.
- Ms. Tullier notified the board that it was time to complete their yearly ethics training and Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure form.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and Strategy on the Lawsuit Involving LAFA

**Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, et al v. Lake Charles Cane –
Lacassine Mill, LLC, 31st JDC, Jefferson Davis Parish, Docket No. C-356-13**

Mr. Stutts made a motion to defer discussion on this topic until later in the meeting. It was seconded by Mrs. Zaunbrecher, and approved unanimously.

Standardized Lease Rates for Rail Usage at Lacassine Industrial Park

Mr. Waguespack made a motion to develop a subcommittee to begin the bid process, and return findings to the board at the next meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Muller, and approved unanimously.

Construction of Rail Spurs at Lacassine Industrial Park

Mr. Simon stated that Meyer & Associates continues to work on the plans, and will be presenting at the next board meeting.

Discussion and Strategy on the Lawsuit Involving LAFA

**Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, et al v. Lake Charles Cane –
Lacassine Mill, LLC, 31st JDC, Jefferson Davis Parish, Docket No. C-356-13**

Mr. Viator made a motion to enter into executive session. It was seconded by Mr. Stutts, and approved unanimously. Executive session began at 10:45 AM.

Mr. Viator made a motion to exit executive session at 11:39 AM. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Muller made a motion to instructing Berrigan, Litchfield, Schonekas, Mann, and Traina, LLC to send a letter for recovery of the farm equipment at Lacassine, enter into consultations with experts on tax credits, and continue discovery and if necessary hire a tax attorney. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stutts, and approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

FFA Sponsorship

Mr. Viator made a motion to proceed with sponsorship of FFA and 4-H, if allowable by law. Each entity would receive \$3,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Muller, and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jay Vanier, with Seaway Midstream Assets, LLC, came before the board to express his appreciation for the continued relationship between the two entities.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Stutts to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Strain and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.